Commercial operations from Salem airport

2185. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to start commercial operations from Salem airport in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines/Airline Allied Services Limited have plans to take 6 ATR aircraft on dry lease basis. One of the services proposed to be operated by these aircraft is a 4 days-a-week service on the sector Delhi-Salem-Coimbatore-Chennai.

Policy on development of airports

2186. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy for development, construction and modernisation of various airports of the country;

(b) if so, the location-wise details of airports in the country to be developed and modernised;

(c) the details of funds allocated for the same during the current year, airport-wise; and

(d) the present status of the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Development, construction and modernisation of airports are being carried out at various locations in the country as a continuous process. The Government has approved restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai airports through joint venture route based on public private partnership. Nine consortia have been shortlisted for this exercise. Private Partners will be finally selected on the basis of Request for Proposal Bids. The process is likely to be completed in the first half of the financial year 2005-2006. In